

Remarks

By the foregoing amendments, the specification has been amended to update the priority information upon entry of the present application into the U.S. National Phase; to insert the Abstract (containing the same text of the Abstract as filed in the International application that appears on the face page of the published International application) into the proper location for U.S. practice; and to replace the sequence listing as filed in the international application with a substitute sequence listing in proper format for U.S. practice; these amendments add no new matter. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.825, the computer readable and paper copies of the substitute sequence listing submitted herewith are the same and include no new matter.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 16 and 18-22 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1-11, 13-15 and 17 are sought to be amended. These amendments are sought to place the claims into better form for U.S. practice, do not introduce new matter, and are supported in the specification, for example, at original claims 1-11, 13-15 and 17. New claims 23-26 are sought to be added. Support for new claims 23 to 25 can be found, for example, at page 11, lines 12 to 19; at page 15, lines 4 to 10; and in original claim 6. Support for new claim 26 can be found throughout the application, for example, at page 18, lines 23 to 27. These amendments to the claims add no new matter and their entry and consideration are respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-15, 17 and 23-26 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim.

Conclusion

Prompt entry and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for immediate examination. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Teresa A. Colella
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 51,575

Date: January 20, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

479295_1.DOC